

Workers Together With God

Int.

1. Aim: To show how preachers and congregations are to work together for God.
2. II Cor. 6:1 NKJV "We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.."
 - a. Gospel preachers and congregations have a mutual responsibility to the world
 - b. We are to preach the gospel to a lost and dying world
3. The Christian age has always emphasized preaching:
 - a. John the Baptist came as a preacher sent from God to foretell the gospel - John 1:6
 - b. Jesus selected, trained and sent forth preachers - Mark 3:14
 - c. The Great Commission was given specifically to Christians to Preach the Gospel - Luke 24:46-47 Mark 16:15-16
 - d. The early Christians carried out this command - Acts 4:18-20; 5:28-29,42; 8:4
4. God intends that we keep on preaching the gospel in our day by:
 - a. Training preachers - II Tim. 2:2
 - b. Sending preachers - Rom. 10:14-15
 - c. Supporting and encouraging preachers - Acts 28:15 Gal. 6:6 Phil. 4:14-19
 - d. Assisting them in the work they do - II Cor. 6:1 Phil. 4:3
5. We must be "Workers together with God"
 - a. A preacher cannot do his best work without the cooperation and understanding of the congregation.
 - b. The congregation cannot reach its potential without preaching and teaching that pleases God.
 - c. We have a mutual responsibility and need.

Discussion

I. WHAT DOES THE CHURCH HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPECT FROM A GOSPEL PREACHER?

- A. It has the right to expect him to be knowledgeable of sound doctrine and to declare it faithfully
1. I Pet. 4:11 "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God;..." Oracles = words - the revelation, the message, the gospel
 2. I Cor. 4:1-2 - he is to be a faithful steward of the word.
 3. I Cor. 2:2 "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."
 4. This means that the preacher must spend a large amount of his time studying the word. 2 Tim. 2:15
- B. It has the right to expect him to preach the whole counsel of God
1. Acts 20:27 "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."
 2. We are not to make laws of our own or ignore laws of God.
 - a. Acts 15:24-29 - council at Jerusalem - some were trying to bind laws
 - b. Matt. 19:9 - divorce for one reason
 3. Preaching sound doctrine is what the Congregation expects and desires. - II Tim. 4:3

- C. It has the right to expect him to preach the truth in love and with sincere concern
1. Eph. 4:15 - truth is to be spoken in love
 2. II Cor. 2:4 "For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you."
 3. Rom. 9:2-3
 4. Rom. 10:1-2
 5. Phil. 3:18
 6. We are not to preach with the attitude that we are glad that people are lost, but we are saddened and want them to be saved!
- D. It has the right to expect him to make an honorable effort to practice his preaching.
1. Acts 1:1-2 Jesus began both to "do and to teach"
 2. Phil. 4:9-10 Paul said "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."
 3. A preacher is to practice the truth that he preaches!
- E. It has the right to expect him to be honest!
1. II Cor. 8:20-21 Paul tried to prevent any hint of suspicion
 2. The church has the right to expect the preacher to be honest in handling of money - Rom. 12:17b "...Provide things honest in the sight of all men."
 3. Rom. 2:21 "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?"

F. Preaching is the greatest work on earth

1. When only a little boy my plan or goal in life was to be a preacher.
2. If I had it all to do over again, I would do the same.
3. I am not a perfect preacher, but I love the work of preaching and teaching the gospel.

II. WHAT DOES A GOSPEL PREACHER HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPECT OF THE CHURCH ?

- A. He has the right to expect them to desire and appreciate the truth that he teaches.
1. Acts 10:33 - No preacher could have a better audience than Peter did here with Cornelius and his household
 2. Acts 17:11 - this congregation had "readiness of mind" in receiving the word and they searched the scriptures daily.
- B. He has the right to expect them to work with him, not to watch him do their work.
1. II Cor. 6:1-2 - workers together with God
 2. Phil. 4:3 - fellowlabourers - co-laborer
 3. Phil. 2:12 - Christians should work even in the absence of a preacher
 "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."
 4. When the preacher rebukes sin, the sinner may say unkind things about him. The preacher should be upheld in his warfare against sin.

- C. He has the right to expect them to practice the Golden Rule - to give him the same consideration they would want if their roles were reversed.
1. Matt. 7:1-5 They would not judge him unfairly
 2. Matt. 18:15-17
 - a. Why not discuss some things between you and him alone rather than to all others first.
 - b. Someone said: "Talk about me all you please; just be sure you're on your knees."
 3. Make allowance for that the fact that the preacher is human.
 - a. He has weaknesses and needs encouragement
 - b. Babe Ruth struck out 1,333 times.
 - c. He needs an "understanding Boss" just the same as YOU do!
 4. Remember Peter made some serious mistakes. God forgave him and used him on Pentecost to preach that first gospel sermon. We might not have used him so soon after his blunder, but God did!!
- D. He has a right to expect your encouragement and support regarding his needs.
1. A preacher has a family
 - a. He must give them some time and consideration
 - b. I Tim. 5:8
 2. He has financial needs to be met
 - a. A church is to support him
 - b. I Cor. 9:6-16
 - c. Gal. 6:6

- E. He has the right to expect you to respect his conscience
1. In matters of judgement Paul was flexible -- I Cor. 9:19-23 10:26
 2. But when a principle was attached that disturbed his conscience, he could not be flexible - I Cor. 10:27 Gal. 2:1-5 Rm. 14: I Cor. 8
 3. Sometimes preachers do not desire to perform certain marriage ceremonies.
 - a. It is often a matter of personal conscience.
 - b. The Bible does not command preachers to perform marriage ceremonies.
 - c. Some doctors refuse to do surgery and some attorneys refuse certain cases in which they do not feel comfortable.

CONCLUSION

1. Preachers and congregations are "workers together with God" in presenting the gospel to a lost and dying world.
2. Congregations need preachers and preachers need congregations. We have certain things that we have a right to expect from one another.
 - a. A congregation has the right to expect a preacher to:
 - i. Know the truth and present the whole counsel of God in love and compassion for those who are lost.
 - ii. For him to practice what he preaches
 - b. The preacher has the right to expect the congregation to
 - i. Appreciate the truth and encourage the preaching of it at all times.
 - ii. Support him fairly in this work
 - iii. Respect his conscience

3. "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain." II Cor. 6:1
 4. 1 Cor. 3:6 "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."
 5. We must have the same mind to work together.
 - a. 1 Cor. 1:10 "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."
 - b. Phi. 2:2 "Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."
 6. Division will destroy us.
 - a. Mat. 12:25 "And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:"
 - b. Gal. 5:15 "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."
 7. Conclusion: Let us determine to work together with God.
-
-

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Evening June 7, 2009
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurhofchrist.org